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Sites of light and dark adaptation in rat retina

Evidence will be presented which shows that when a sub-area of a rat ganglion cell's receptive field is illuminated or bleached, the desensitizing effects of exposure to light are not confined to the exposed area. We will argue that our findings indicate that adaptive signals are pooled, but not uniformly. The weighting function for adaptive pooling falls off sharply within the centre of the ganglion cells' receptive field. Thus, it seems that adaptation in the rat occurs at a site or sites distal to the ganglion cell. These sites could be within the layer of photoreceptors, but are probably more proximal in the retina.